(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a new LPG bottling plant at Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to increase the capacity of LPG bottling plants in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) During theTenth Plan, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has the plan to set up a new LPG bottling plant of 44Thousand MetricTonne Per Annum (TMTPA) at Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Apart from capacity augmentation and commissioning of new LPG bottling plants carried over from Ninth Plan, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have the plan to increase the bottling capacity by 132 TMTPA in the Tenth Plan.

Petrotech-2003

722. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objects of organizing Petrotech-2003 in New Delhi during January last;

(b) the amount of money spent on it;

(c) whether foreign experts/oil companies visited Petrotech-2003 and gave business or offered services for tapping hydrocarbons in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d)The 5th International Petroleum Conference and Exhibition, "Petrotech-2003", was organized by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) with the sponsorships of various public and private sector companies, on the theme of "Global Cooperation for Hydrocarbon Technology". The expenditure for organizing the event is around Rs. 750 lakhs, to be met

out of contributions by the sponsors and from delegates fees.

About 3,400 delegates, both Indian and foreign, attended the Conference. Exhibitors from 14 foreign countries, in addition to domestic companies, participated in the Exhibition held to show-case Indian petroleum industry to the world.The Petrotech-2003 enabled experts and other participants to share their experience and knowledge, assess the trend in global petroleum industry with particular reference to India, and discuss mutual cooperation for business development.

Allocation of exploration work

723. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has 3 per cent of world's oil reserves;

(b) if so, the total sedimentary area and the proven area having crude oil and gas as on 31st December, 2002;

(c) what is the anticipated monthly rate of production of crude oil and gas from 1st January, 2003;

(d) the steps being taken to explore and exploit virgin sedimentary areas during 2003-04,2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(e) in what manner the work is allocated among ONGC, OIL and foreign firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) India, including its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) has more than 4% of the world's total sedimentary basins. Worldwide, sedimentary areas are recognized to be the possible habitats of hydrocarbon reserves. Total sedimentary area of India, as on date, has been estimated to be about 3.14 million square kilometre (Sq. Km.), of which in seven sedimentary basins encompassing an area of about 0.52 Million Sq. Km. presence of hydrocarbon has been established and are on production.

(c)The monthly rate of production of crude oil and natural gas in the 4th quarter of 2002-2003 (January to March, 2003) is estimated to be 2.8 Million MetricTonne (MMT) and 2.4 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) respectively.